

Fortin de Glenega
Near Shafter, Texas

HABS No. Tex-3119

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas

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FORTIN DE SIENEGA
Near Shafter, Presidio County, Texas.

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Bert Greenwood

Date of Erection: Late 1850's

Architect: Milton Favors

Builder: Milton Favors

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Adobe, cottonwood, and cypress.

Other Existing Records: None

Additional Data:

Built in the late 1850's by Milton Favors, and was used as headquarters for a large cattle ranch. The building originally consisted of seven rooms, six of which are still standing and in use as living quarters by the present owners.

The building, including patio walls, is 100 feet square, has two towers, one on the Northeast, and the other on the Southwest. They were used as vantage points from which to repel Indian attacks. The building is constructed entirely of adobe made into brick form, approximately 6" by 1' x 1' 6", and laid up in adobe mud; all woodwork is cottonwood and cypress; cottonwood predominating. The cypress used is of the Mexican variety known as Calinas. Outside walls are from ten to fifteen feet high and from two to three feet thick. The place is situated with a hill to the North, another to the West, and a creek to the South. Although situated seemingly at an unadvantageous mountain foot, it is so constructed as to be absolutely impregnable from any point. The mountain to the North is quite some distance away. Nothing but spent arrows could reach the main enclosure. There were no openings to the exterior with the exception of the main patio gate, large enough for a man to enter.

There is a story of one raid during which an Indian succeeded in digging under the walls and was at the point of crawling thru, when he was seen by one of the defenders, who immediately seized a spear, thrust it through the Indian, impaling him to the ground.

The Indian could neither come into the yard, nor be pulled back by his companions; so there he died, and the hole was effectively plugged for the duration of that raid.

This old fort is set on a lava rock foundation.

The Present Owners, Mr and Mrs. Hart Greenwood, have picked up and mounted over three hundred perfect arrow heads, ranging in size from $3/4$ " and 1" long to $4\ 1/2$ " and 5" long. These are made from almost every variety of the native hard rock ranging from flint, to granite, and metal bearing quartz. There are also some old Indian caves near this place, one of which bears paintings of Indian figures mounted on horses.

During the life of Milton Favors this place was known as Fortin de Sienega, meaning the Fort of the Marshy Springs.

Author:

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APPROVED:

Bartlett Cocke
Bartlett Cocke, Dist. Officer

Date: February 5, 1937.

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